

Lincoln Trail District

Merit Badge College

February 21, 2026

LEADER'S GUIDE



lincolntrailmbc2026@gmail.com

Hardin County Schools
Early College & Career Center (EC3)
200 University Drive
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

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EVENT INFORMATION

The Lincoln Trail District is excited to announce the return of our *Merit Badge College* and we are once again partnering with Hardin County Schools Early College and Career Center. This year we have added opportunities to also work on **STEM Nova and Supernova awards in addition to Protestant Religious Emblems**. Additionally, we have again embedded some requirements for the **Scholarship merit badge** into all merit badge classes. This will enable Scouts to earn the Scholarship merit badge once they complete the remaining requirements after the event. So, some Scouts can earn three merit badges. Together, we hope to provide a great opportunity for Scouts to earn merit badges and awards while gaining knowledge, developing new skills, and exploring the world around them. Lastly, AOL Scouts crossing over are invited to attend if their new Troop supports them working on a merit badge at this event.

This year's event Co-Chairs are Chris Adams and Jason Seery. Please contact them with all questions and concerns at:

lincolntrailmbc2026@gmail.com

EVENT SCHEDULE

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
7:50am - 8:00am	Counselor and Staff Arrival/Check-In	Atrium
8:00am - 8:20am	Scout and Unit Arrival/Check-In	Atrium
8:30am - 11:45am	Merit Badge Session 1	Per Room Assignments
11:45am - 1:15pm	Lunch as Released in Information	As Assigned
1:15pm – 4:15pm	Merit Badge Session 2	Per Room Assignments
4:15pm – 4:45pm	Clean Up Facility/Departure	As Needed

SPECIAL EVENTS

This year there will be two special events taking place during the lunch break.

1. The Health Care Professions merit badge Scouts and leaders will be holding a Health Fair in the EC3 Atrium as their final requirement for their merit badge. You are invited to come to their station to have your heart rate, blood pressure, and respiratory rate evaluated along with a chance to have your height and weight taken to calculate your Body Mass Index. Additionally, there will be a dynamometer to test grip strength, and flyers on healthy living (foods, exercise, sleep, stress reduction, etc.)
2. The Scouts participating in the STEM track working on the Dr. Bernard Harris Bronze level Supernova Award will have an educational area. Here, the STEM Scouts will share with leaders, parents, and other Scouts the many amazing opportunities that Scouts have in Scouting to work on STEM themed merit badges, awards, and projects. They will also discuss upcoming STEM opportunities led by the Lincoln Trail District and Lincoln Heritage Council.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO VOLUNTEERS

A short presentation to counselors, staff, and volunteers will be held during lunch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To offer and operate this type of event will take many hands. It is a requirement for each unit participating to have two adults on site and to facilitate a successful “Safeguarding Youth” compliant event.

We will have registered Merit Badge Counselors for the classes. Additionally, we need adult volunteers to assist with: acting as the second adult for each class; help at our Counselor and Scout check-in table; distributing rosters and packets; staffing the first aid station; lunch time organizers; and providing general oversight and directing scouts to classes.

With your help this can be a great event! We appreciate the time you give to Scouting.

END OF EVENT SURVEY FOR PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

A few days after the event, we will notify unit leaders of the completion status of your Scout’s merit badge or award. We will also send leaders an email with a link to a post-event survey. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions to help let us know what went well and what we can change to ensure our 2027 event is even better and meets the needs of your Scouts and unit.

TROOP PREPARATION FOR MBC

If your Troop follows the steps listed below, the process of preparing everyone for a successful Merit Badge College should go more smoothly.

- Inform all Scouts and parents of the event date. While it is preferred that Scouts attend as a unit, it is acceptable for a single Scout to attend if no one else from their unit is participating. It is also preferred that the Scouts attending register as a unit. If a single Scout is attending without two adult leaders, please have the unit leader or parent contact the event Co-Chairs at the email provided in the leaders guide.
- Share with Scouts, parents, and leaders the list of merit badges offered in this Leader's Guide and explain that a schedule with pre-/post-requisites will be released before registration opens.
- Recruit at least two registered adult leaders to attend the event with your Unit. All Troops must follow the guidelines as described in the "*Guide to Safe Scouting*"
- Adult leaders may be asked to help on the day of the event. All leaders from your unit attending will count towards your unit's "two deep" leadership as they will be on site. Please email the Co-Chairs if your participating leaders want to assist in a specific area or task.
- As soon as your unit decides they would like to participate, e-mail us so we can send you the final schedule of merit badges and pre-/post-requisites.
- Registrations must be entered into Tentaroo no later than the published close of registration (Monday, February the 9th) as listed on the merit badge schedule.
- If you have any issues with Tentaroo, please email lincolntrailmbc2026@gmail.com
 - Include in the subject line: "MBC 2026" and your Troop number.
- Collect registration fees. (*Adults only need to pay if they would like a meal &/or patch*)
- Please note: **We cannot allow late registrations or walk-ins for this event.**

COST OF THE EVENT

All fees are due on Tentaroo or the Council Office no later than end of the registration period (Monday, February 9th)

\$20.00 per Scout attending*

\$8.00 per Adult (meal only)

\$4.00 for additional patch

*The cost for Scouts covers classroom supplies, a commemorative patch, and lunch.

The Culinary students & staff of Elizabethtown EC3 will prepare three entree options. In addition to accommodations for those needing gluten-free options. If you have additional specific food needs not included in the meal options below, please email the event Co-Chairs and also indicate your needs when you register on Tentaroo.

Registered Merit Badge Counselors and official event staff members will receive a FREE meal and patch. We will email you to confirm your meal choice since you will not register on Tentaroo.

Lunch choices are:

Entree: Chicken tenders/gluten-free chicken tenders, pulled pork, or two additional servings of sides (vegetarian)

Sides: Mac and cheese, green beans, coleslaw

Dessert: Cookie/gluten-free cookie

Drink: Ice tea, lemonade, and water

EVENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Anyone participating in this event is expected to follow Boy Scouts of America National Guidelines as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting. An online version of the *Guide to SafeScouting* is at: <http://www.Scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx>.

The Law is the Rule

Everyone is expected to abide by the Boy Scout Law, Oath, Motto, and Slogan. *Scouts, Leaders, and Parents.*

Uniforms

We represent the Scouting movement as a whole and should present ourselves accordingly. The Scouts Field Uniform should always be properly worn, unless a Scout is in a merit badge class that requires special clothing.

Buddy System

All bathrooms will be clearly marked as assigned to “Adults” or “Scouts.” Scouts needing to use the restroom will need a buddy. Scouts will not have to use the *Buddy System* while transitioning between classes. However, all Scouts should go directly to classes and be on time. During lunch and midway times, all Scouts should check in with their unit leaders. All Scouts must remain in the EC3 campus unless they have checked out with their Troop.

Security

This is an open campus and all units should advise their Scouts to stay in the EC3 building and be where they are expected to be. Everyone is encouraged to report any inappropriate behavior or destruction of property.

Tobacco

Use of tobacco products by youth participants is prohibited. Use of tobacco products by youth will result in **immediate dismissal**. Scouting America guidelines require a smoke-free environment for Scouts. The Early College and Career Center is a tobacco-free campus. *What does this mean?* According to EC3, this means the use of tobacco products of any kind (*This includes vaping and e-cigarettes*) is prohibited on all property owned, operated, leased, occupied, or controlled by HCS. This includes, but is not limited to, campus buildings and structures, grounds, parking lots, walkways, sidewalks, and vehicles (even your personal ones since they are in EC3 parking lots).

Vehicles

There is ample parking at EC3. We ask you to be very cautious while driving as there will be many youths around. Please abide by all parking signs and any personnel on site directing traffic. Communicate with us in advance if there are any special needs concerning parking. Staff can use the parking area in front of the building (NE); Scouts, Adult Leaders, and Merit Badge Counselors should use the parking lot behind the building (SW) as their primary parking location; if the primary parking lot becomes full, then participants can use the secondary overflow parking lot to the east of the building. See the map and additional information on the last page of this guide.

Food & Drinks

- Each Scout will need a water bottle for their personal use
- No food, snacks, gum or *other* drinks will be allowed in classrooms.
- Lunch will be provided and eaten in the designated areas.
- Communicate by email in advance if anyone participating has special food needs.

First Aid

Each Scout must have a personal first aid kit on hand. Injuries that are more serious need to be reported to the nearest adult volunteer who will direct the Scout to the first aid officer if necessary.

WHAT TO BRING

RECOMMENDED SCOUT ITEMS

Each Scout MUST have:

- SA Field Uniform-*Ensure it is tucked in and worn with a belt.* Your merit badge sash is not required. Arrowmen in the Order of the Arrow are strongly encouraged to wear their OA sash.
- Paper and something to write with.
- Any prerequisite materials. (See Badge and Award Details)
- Special clothing or equipment if required. (See Badge and Award Details)
- Water Bottle filled with water.
- Personal first aid kit.
- A merit badge class schedule. (*Leaders will need to print them from Tentaroo*)
- A bag or day pack.
- A telephone number for an adult leader on site.

What NOT to bring: *Note: Any item deemed a distraction may be confiscated by a member of staff and returned to the unit leader*

- Headphones, unless required for medically approved reasons by a physician.
- Electronics. (radios, video games, etc.)
- If a Scout must bring a cell phone, it should be turned off, not on mute.

RECOMMENDED TROOP ITEMS

- Roster of all Scouts attending, their classes, and what menu items they ordered.
- Medical forms (Parts A & B).
- List of emergency contact numbers for each Scout.
- Two registered adult leaders who are on site.
- Each Scout should know their Troop number and have the phone number of an adult leader's cell-phone number that is on site.

2026 MERIT BADGE OFFERINGS

A finalized MB list with pre-/post-requisites will be published at a later date and is dependent on available MB Counselors. Classes will have ~20 seats, except for Welding and Automotive Maintenance (~5-10 seats). Additionally, Automotive Maintenance and First Aid are a single 6 hour long class (two 3 hour sessions). Scholarship MB requirements are embedded into all MB classes. Therefore, Scouts earn this MB after they complete the remaining requirements. Lastly, MB completion is not guaranteed. Scouts must participate in requirements during the event and complete all pre-/post-requisites.

<u>REQUIRED MB</u>	<u>ELECTIVE MB</u>	<u>ELECTIVE MB</u>
Citizenship in Community x2	American Business x1	Health Care Professions x1
Citizenship in the Nation x2	American Labor x1	Law x1
Citizenship in Society x1	Animal Science x1	Mining In Society x1
Citizenship in the World x2	Automotive Maintenance x1*	Public Health x1
Communications x2	Aviation x1	Public Speaking x1
Cooking x1	Chemistry x1	Scholarship**
Emergency Preparedness x2	Coin Collecting x1	Search and Rescue x1
Environmental Science x2	Dentistry x1	Snow Sports x2
Family Life x1	Disabilities Awareness x1	Veterinary Medicine x1
First Aid x1*	Fishing/Fly Fishing x1	Weather x1
Personal Management x1	Genealogy x1	Welding x2
Sustainability x1	Geocaching x1	

2026 SCOUT AWARDS OFFERINGS

Science Technology Engineering Mathematics

Led by Matt King (Lincoln Trail District STEM Committee Chair)

Morning Session:

Nova Award-Let it Grow
 Nova Award-Shoot!
 Nova Award-Whoosh!

Lunch participation:

STEM booth

Afternoon Session:

Supernova Award-Dr. Bernard Harris: Bronze Level

It is strongly encouraged that Scouts interested in the STEM awards being offered at the 2026 MBC attend both the morning and afternoon session, and the required lunch presentation. However, if a Scout does not want or need to earn the required Nova awards at this event, they can sign up for the Supernova portion being held during the afternoon session. Of note, they will also be required to participate in the STEM presentation during lunch to fulfill the requirements of this award. Additionally, if a Scout is only interested in earning the three Nova awards offered during the morning session and does not want to work on the Supernova award, this is allowed too. Please ensure you register correctly on Tentaroo. If you have questions or concerns please contact the Co-Chairs at the email provided.

RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS

Led by Rev. Paul Fredrick (Lincoln Trail District Religious Emblem Coordinator)

Morning Session:

God and Church (Grades 6-8)
 God and Life (Grades 9-12)

Afternoon Session:

God and Church (Grades 6-8)
 God and Life (Grades 9-12)

If you already have your God and Church or God and Life workbooks, please bring them with you.

DIRECTIONS TO EVENT



Hardin County Schools - Early College & Career Center

200 University Drive

Elizabethtown, KY 42701

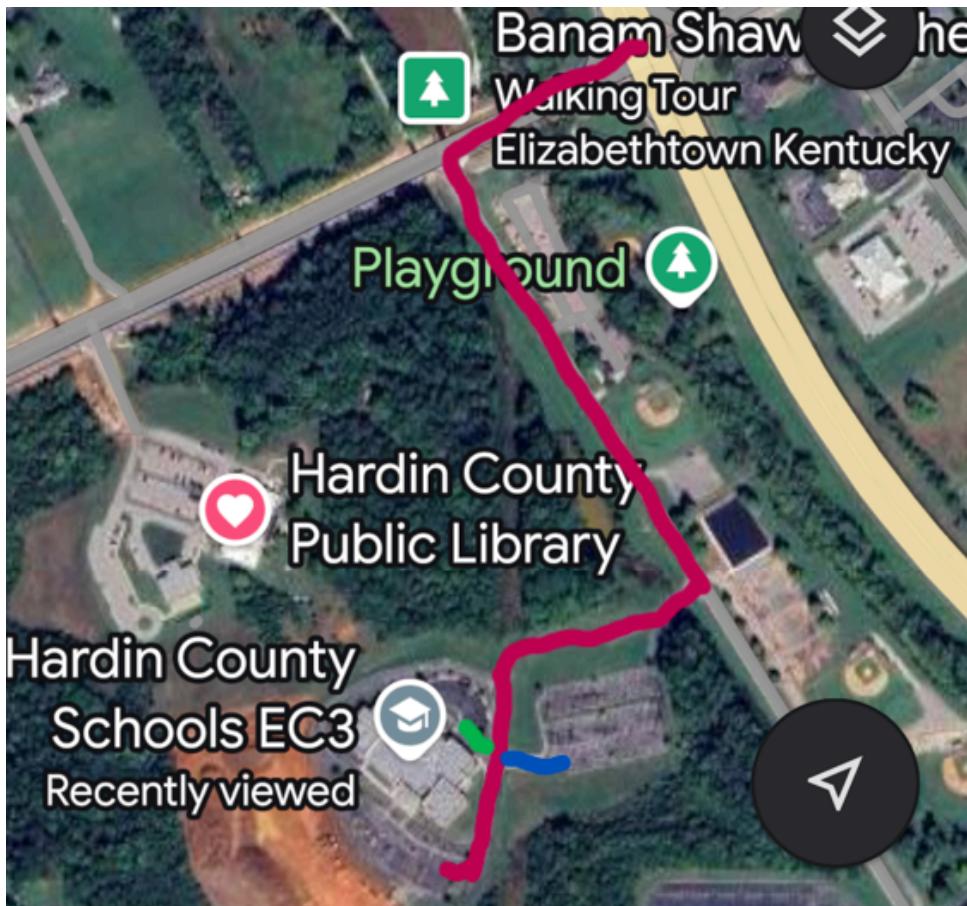
From I65 north:

Take exit 91 toward US-31W/KY-61/Elizabethtown/Paducah/Fort Knox/Hodgenville. Keep left at the fork, follow signs for US-31W Bypass/Fort Knox/Paducah. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for US-31W/Fort Knox/Paducah and merge onto Western Kentucky Pkwy. Take exit 136 for US-31W Bypass N toward Ft Knox/Patton Museum/US-62W. Merge onto Elizabethtown Bypass. Travel 1.7 miles, turn left at second light onto B2 St. John Road – State Road 1357. Make a left turn almost immediately (about 100 yards) onto University Drive. Travel 350 yards and make a right at Early College and Career Center (directly across from the tennis courts that will be on the left).

From I65 South:

Take the US-31 W/KY -61 N exit, Exit 91, toward Paducah/Owensboro/Elizabethtown. Keep left to take the ramp toward Owensboro/Paducah. Merge onto Western Kentucky Parkway West. Merge onto US-31W Bypass N/Elizabethtown Bypass via Exit 136 toward Fort Knox. Travel 1.7 miles, turn left at second light onto B2 St. John Road – State Road 1357. Make a left turn almost immediately (about 100 yards) onto University Drive. Travel 350 yards and make a right at Early College and Career Center (directly across from the tennis courts that will be on the left).

EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER (EC3) MAP



RED line leads to primary parking for participants; **GREEN** is staff parking; **BLUE** is overflow parking

